

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6782

INFO DEA WASHDC

US CUSTOMS WASHDC

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DEPARTMENT FOR S/NM

DEA FOR TRI

US CUSTOMS FOR INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: SNAR NP

SUBJ: NARCOTICS TRAINING FACILITIES

REF: STATE 284346

1. NEPAL HAS ONLY RECENTLY ESTABLISHED NARCOTICS CONTROL OFFICE. ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY FOR AGENCY HAS NOT YET BEEN SET UP, NOR HAVE PERMANENT PERSONNEL BEEN ASSIGNED TO SATTT OFFICE.

BASED ON INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS WITH POLICE AND CUSTOMS OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH NARCOTICS, HOWEVER, WE DOUBT WHETHER AGENCY WILL HAVE FACILITIES FOR TRAINING OF PERSONNEL, ESPECIALLY IN EARLY STAGES. SECRETARY OF HOME MINISTRY UNDER WHOSE JURISDICTION AGENCY WILL FALL HAS ALREADY STATED NEED FOR OUTSIDE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING BASIC TRAINING.

2. LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES (POLICE, AS WELL AS CUSTOMS) DO NOT NOW INCLUDE NARCOTICS IN TRAINING PROGRAMS. IN GENERAL TRAINING

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FACILITIES IN NEPAL ARE MINIMAL. POLICE TRAINING IS HELD AT

ACADEMY IN KATHMANDU AND EMPHASIS IS PLACED ON PHYSICAL FITNESS, RATHER THAN ADMINISTRATIVE TRAINING. THERE IS NO TRAINING PROGRAM AT ALL IN NEPALESE CUSTOMS OTHER THAN AD HOC ON THE JOB LEARNING EXPERIENCE.

3. US HAS PROVIDED 6 TRAINING SLOTS FOR POLICE IN PAST 3 YEARS AND HAS SENT 3 CUSTOMS OFFICIALS TO US. WE HAVE ALSO RUN BASIC CUSTOMS COURSE IN KATHMANDU AND ONE PROVINCIAL CITY FOR APPROXIMATELY 50 CUSTOMS OFFICIALS. THE DEA TRAINING FOR POLICE HAS NOT BEEN UTILIZED SINCE IN THE ABSENCE OF BASIC CONTROLS AND NARCOTICS LEGISLATION POLICE HAVE BEEN HESITANT TO ACT IN THIS AREA. CUSTOMS COURSE, PARTICULARLY IN-COUNTRY TRAINING PROGRAM, RESULTED IN DRAMATIC INCREASE IN SEIZURES AT KATHMANDU AIRPORT. SIX MONTHS FOLLOWING PROGRAM 12 SEIZURES HAD BEEN MADE AT AIRPORT, FIRST IN SEVERAL YEARS. WE BELIEVE THAT TRAINING WAS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR INSTITUTION OF NEW SEARCH PROCEDURES, AS WELL AS CREATING SENSE OF ESPIRIT DE CORPS AMONG LOCAL CUSTOMS OFFICIALS AT WORKING LEVEL.

4. WE HAVE LITTLE DOUBT THAT NEW NARCOTICS CONTROL OFFICE WOULD WELCOME OFFER OF US ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING PROGRAM TO DEVELOP ITS OWN TRAINING PROGRAM. WE ARE HESITANT TO RECOMMEND SUCH A COURSE OF ACTION AT THIS TIME, HOWEVER. NOT ONLY IS OFFICE NOT YET OPERATING (IT MAY TAKE SEVERAL MONTHS FOR STAFF TO BE SELECTED,) BUT WE DOUBT THAT PERSONNEL CAN YET BE IDENTIFIED WHO ARE CAPABLE OR WILLING TO FOLLOW UP ON SUCH A PROGRAM. RESOURCES OF MOST GOVERNMENT OFFICES ARE SO MEAGER THAT TRAINING SIMPLY GETS LEFT OUT OF BUDGET. AT THIS STAGE IN NEPAL'S NASCENT NARCOTICS PROGRAM WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WISER INVESTMENT TO PROVIDE ELEMENTARY, BASIC ENFORCEMENT TRAINING FOR FEW SELECTED OFFICIALS. SUCH AN EFFORT SHOULD PROBABLY BE AN IN-COUNTRY PROGRAM TO WHICH WE COULD EXPOSE SOME SENIOR OFFICIALS. HAVING SEEN BENEFITS OF TRAINING, SENIOR MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS COULD THEN BE APPROACHED ON POSSIBILITY OF SETTING UP TRAINING PROGRAM WITH US ASSISTANCE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE NEPAL IS PRESENTLY CAPABLE OF PROVIDING TRAINING FOR NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.

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